

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-4 and 11-14 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, claim 1 is amended to more particularly recite the subject matter of the present invention. New independent claim 15 is added to more particularly recite the subject matter of the present invention. Claims 1 and 15 are independent. No new matter is added by the instant amendment, as support for the amendment to claim 1 and new claim 15 may be found in the specification and drawing figures, e.g., FIGS. 5 and 6, as originally filed.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 26, 2004. Applicants request the Examiner's acknowledgement and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 14, 2004.

Claims 1-4 and 11-15 are presented to the Examiner for further or initial prosecution on the merits.

A. Asserted Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 11-14

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,625 to Maeng et al. ("the Maeng et al. reference"). Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, defines the present invention over the Maeng et al. reference for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the structure of the ink-jet printhead of the present invention, shown, for example, in FIGS. 6, 13 and 14. As discussed, for example, in paragraph [0054] of the original specification, the ink chamber and the ink passage are formed in

a common groove, thereby forming the ink chamber and the ink passage to have a common depth.

While FIG. 8D of the Maeng et al. reference may disclose an ink chamber 214 and an ink channel 216 on a front surface of a substrate 212, a depth of the ink channel 216 is less than a depth of the ink chamber. Specifically, with reference to FIGS. 8A-8D, the Maeng et al. reference discloses “each ink ejector 200 includes a substantially hemispherical ink chamber 214 filled with ink and an ink channel 216 formed shallower than the ink chamber 214 for supplying ink to the ink chamber, both of which are formed on a top surface of a substrate 210.” *The Maeng et al. reference at col. 7, lines 36-41.* A feature of the Maeng et al. reference is the prevention of a backflow of ink from the ink chamber into the ink channel. The relative depths of the ink chamber and the ink channel in the Maeng et al. reference are related to preventing this backflow of ink. Thus, the Maeng et al. reference fails to disclose or even suggest forming the ink chamber and the ink channel to have a same depth, as shown in FIG. 6 of the subject application, and now clearly recited in independent claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the Maeng et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as set forth in claim 1. In view of the above distinction between the subject invention as presently claimed and the Maeng et al. reference, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

In addition, the remaining claims, viz., claims 2-4 and 11-14, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and, as such, claims 2-4 and 11-14 are believed to be similarly allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4 and 11-14 are respectfully requested.

B. New Claim 15

By the instant amendment, new independent claim 15 is added. No new matter is added by this amendment as the subject matter recited in this claim is disclosed in the specification and figures, e.g., FIGS. 5 and 6, as originally filed.

Claim 15 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

C. Conclusion

Since the cited prior art reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject invention as presently claimed, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 11-15 are now in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.